

# Department of Human Services

Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
(517) 373-7394



\*Important story at this spot

## Articles in Today's Clips

### Thursday, August 24, 2006

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
*Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	2-23
*Child Custody	24-26
Health Care	27-32
Fraud	33
Child Care	34
Child Support	35
Charities	36-38
State Employees	39-40

[<<Back](#)



## Appeals Court Delays Tim Holland's Trial To Hear Appeal

Aug 15, 2006 10:10 AM EDT

(AP) -- The trial for a man accused of killing his seven-year-old son has been delayed so the Michigan Court of Appeals can consider an appeal filed by the man's attorney. Jury selection in Tim Holland's trial was scheduled to begin September eleventh.

He is charged along with his wife, Lisa Holland, with felony murder and child abuse in 2005 death of their adopted son Ricky. The two accused have pointed the finger at each other in the boy's death. They are to be tried at the same time by different juries.

An Ingham County prosecutor says that the delay will likely delay Lisa Holland's trial as well.

(Copyright 2006 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.)



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2006 WorldNow and WNEM. All Rights Reserved.  
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).



## Mom gets 6 months in jail

Thursday, August 24, 2006

**By Steven Hepker**

**shepker@citpat.com -- 768-4923**

Police said Christine Anne Prater drove drunk with children aboard twice in eight months, each time crashing her car.

On Wednesday, Jackson County Circuit Judge Charles Nelson sentenced Prater to 180 days in jail for driving drunk while on probation.

On Aug. 7, 2005, Prater lost control of her car on M-60 in Concord Township and it rolled on its roof. Prater, her 15-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old girl received minor injuries.

The girls told a state trooper they were scared because Prater was drunk and swerving before the crash. Her daughter said she pleaded with Prater to let her drive.

State police said Prater's blood-alcohol level was 0.23 percent, nearly three times the legal limit.

Prosecutors allowed Prater to plead down to attempted driving while intoxicated, a break that made her eligible for Recovery Court and a chance to avoid jail.

She was in the program April 22 when police allege she was driving drunk once again, this time with her 13-year-old son aboard. The boy said he pleaded with her to let him drive.

Shortly after the boy hopped out of the car at a slow speed on McCain Road, Prater crashed into the ditch, police said. Her blood-alcohol level was 0.13 percent, police reported.

"I cannot take another chance of her risking the life of a child," Assistant Prosecutor Nick Mehalco Jr. said in asking Nelson to exceed sentencing guidelines of up to nine months in jail.

Prater faces new charges of operating while intoxicated, third offense; second-degree child abuse and driving while license suspended.

"I realize I drank and drove and could have killed someone," Prater told the judge. "I feel I can be a productive member of society."

©2006 Jackson Citizen Patriot

© 2006 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

# Clyde man pleads guilty to sexual abuse of 9-year-old

By [Daniel Pepper](#)  
Allegan News Staff Writer

Wednesday, August 23, 2006 9:10 AM EDT

The trial of one of the men charged in what authorities have referred to as one of the worst cases of child sexual abuse in west Michigan was cancelled recently after James Lee Rupert of Clyde Township pleaded guilty to first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Rupert, 27, entered a plea Friday, Aug. 11. His trial for multiple felonies for molesting one victim was scheduled to begin Tuesday, Aug. 21, and another trial was scheduled for September.

Allegan County assistant prosecutor Myrene Koch spelled out the plea bargain.

"The defendant's attorney has indicated he will be pleading guilty to criminal sexual conduct in the first degree," Koch said. "Count 2, of CSC-second degree will be dismissed and all charges in the other file will be dropped."

Koch said that prosecutors had agreed not to file any more charges against Rupert without new evidence.

"No additional criminal sexual conduct charges based on information currently known will be charged and the prosecutors office will make no recommendation as to sentencing, leaving that to the court's discretion," she said.

Koch said that by Rupert pleading guilty now, he would avoid being sentenced under tougher state sentencing guidelines that will go into effect for those convicted after Aug. 28.

Rupert is one of three men charged in the case which Allegan County prosecutors have said involves the sexual abuse of up to seven children and creating child pornography amounting to 20,000 photos. The children involved come from two families that lived together in a house. The mother from one of the families, Melissa Rupert, 26, wife of James Rupert, has been charged as an accessory and with child abuse. Rupert's father, Ronald, 56. was sentenced in July to up to 50 years in prison.

James Rupert pleaded guilty, telling the court he'd forced a 9-year old girl to perform oral sex on him.

Judge Harry Beach asked if the girl was a relative of Rupert's and he said she wasn't.

Allegan County prosecutor Fred Anderson said his office had not tried harder than usual for a plea bargain in the case.

"We were ready to go to trial," Anderson said. "He pleaded guilty to a life offense, when he was charged with three life offenses."

Rupert will be sentenced Friday, Sept. 29, in Allegan County Circuit Court.

Dan Pepper can be reached at [dpepper@allegannews.com](mailto:dpepper@allegannews.com) or at (269) 673-5534.



## Surviving assault

Wednesday, August 23, 2006

**JILL ARMENTROUT**

**THE SAGINAW NEWS**

Counselors and advocates say attitudes about sexual assault continue to evolve 30 years after the Rape Crisis Center opened in Saginaw.

The original facility that opened its doors at 1626 N. Michigan in 1976 is gone, but the services it offered continue to grow through what is known now as the Sexual Assault Program of Child and Family Services of Saginaw County, 2806 Davenport in Saginaw.

"This started as a grass-roots effort when this issue was just developing as a movement," said Pamela Mays, who worked as program supervisor from 1986 to 1992 and took over the job again in 2005.

"The Michigan criminal sexual conduct statute was just passed. The women who started it wanted to change the system and provide support."

Today, more than 5,000 county residents receive free services, annual records show, which include nurse examiner and victim advocate services, counseling for adults and children, court support and education outreach.

Diane M. Craig, 59, was a founder of the original Rape Crisis Center and was its first director. Now living in Gulfport, Fla., Craig will return to Saginaw to speak at a 30th anniversary celebration Thursday, Aug. 31.

She served as director for that first year, along with Louanne Smith as director of counseling and nine volunteers.

"The center started out of the feminist movement, with a group in Saginaw known as Women United for Social Justice," Craig said.

The women received a federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration grant of \$50,000 to start the effort, along with 5 percent matching funds each from the county, state and donations. It was one of the first grants of its kind, Craig said.

"Rape was something you didn't report or talk about, and it took the women's movement to take the shame out of it," Craig said. "Until the '70s, the mentality was that the best victim was a dead victim because it meant she fought back, and that was the only way to prove rape."

Organizers received national training and offered a 24-hour crisis hot line. They helped educate police officers, detectives, doctors and nurses in how to help victims, she said.

"We're not as far ahead today as we hoped we'd be," Craig said. "I feel at times there is a backlash about women and rape victims."

Changing attitudes remains a challenge, Mays agrees. Prosecutors continue to have difficulty in convincing juries to return assault convictions, she said.

Counseling caseloads have grown steadily throughout the years, from about 100 in 1981 to more than 500

in 1990 and to 605 in 2005.

The program employs two full-time therapists and will add a third in October to meet demand. In May, the two therapists led 179 counseling sessions -- compared with a monthly average of 134 in 2005.

"We are busier than ever," Mays said. "Our therapists are booked. Our numbers have always been high in Saginaw County. We have an effective support network that makes reporting easier."

The program offers a continuum of care -- all free -- from immediate support in the hospital to follow-up, counseling and assistance in court.

"We are there the whole way," said Margaret M. Bach, development and operations director for Child and Family Services, who ran the sexual assault program from 1999 to 2005.

The center became the Saginaw County Sexual Assault Center and merged with Child and Family Services in 1984 in an effort to stabilize funding, which comes from United Way of Saginaw County, a federal Victims of Crimes Act grant and the Michigan Department of Community Health.

There are four full-time coordinators on staff and 25 volunteer victim advocates on call. Five sexual assault examination nurses also respond to calls, but more are needed, Mays said.

The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner program got started in 2001 and uses a designated exam space at St. Mary's Towne Centre facility in Saginaw Township. Nurse examiners and victim advocates are on call 24 hours a day for assault victims 13 and older.

After the immediate care, need for counseling can continue for years after an assault.

"We have clients we've seen as a toddler (when the abuse first happened) and seen again as a preschooler and now as a teen," Mays said. "As she goes through developmental stages, she needs help again."

Sara R. Ylen, 31, began receiving services in Saginaw in 2001, a few months after a stranger assaulted her in a daytime attack in a busy retail parking lot in Port Huron.

The Croswell woman, a mother of two, continues to drive to Saginaw for counseling. She will display artwork reflecting her response to the assault at the anniversary event.

"The piece describes how you feel like a completely different person after the assault and how all eyes must see you differently, as a victim, as less than perfect."

Counseling has helped her through her recovery and through the court case that ended with a conviction for her attacker, who is serving 15 to 30 years in prison, she said.

"Regardless of whether you talk to police, the one thing you have to do is seek counseling," Ylen said. "Otherwise, you enter a cycle of blame and shame that keeps going."

"I'm headed in the right direction."

The vision of addressing sexual assault has expanded throughout the years, from the limited scope of rape in the beginning to reaching out to children, men and women, said Mays, 45, of Saginaw Township.

Approximately 60 percent of clients receiving counseling are 17 or younger, boys and girls. Counseling also is available for adults who were assaulted as children, and the program serves two or three adult male victims each year.

"Our oldest female victim was 86," Mays said. "People with developmental disabilities also are a vulnerable group."

Craig wants to see more education of young children about how to speak out about abuse and how to

respect their and others' sexuality.

In 2005, more than 3,200 preschool, middle school and high school students heard about safe touch (how to tell the difference between correct and inappropriate touching) and how to prevent sexual assault. This summer, presentations to youth covered healthy relationships and how the media depict sexual behavior, said Bach, 34, of Essexville.

Leaders would like to take these presentations to schools this fall, but they must obtain permission from districts. Outreach to parents also continues, along with messages to men and boys about acceptable behavior. A collaboration with Saginaw Valley State University is in the works.

"Rape is never about anything other than power," Craig said. "If we only treat the problem, we will always have it."v

©2006 Saginaw News

© 2006 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **livingstondaily.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Aug 24, 2006

## **Sex assault spares no age group**

By Kristofer Karol

**DAILY PRESS & ARGUS**

The face of a sexual assault victim in Livingston County is often that of a child.

And the face of the assaulter is usually a familiar one.

"What we have here as far as sexual assaults go is that it is fairly unlikely some stranger is going to snatch you off the street and sexually assault you," said Livingston County Prosecutor David Morse.

"In most instances, the victim is known or related to the assailant and in the majority of them, the victims are probably under the age of 16," Morse said.

That news is no surprise at LACASA, the county's nonprofit domestic violence center, which is increasingly targeting a younger audience with its education programs.

The numbers are staggering.

Of the 131 children under 12 seen last year by LACASA for suspected physical abuse, nearly all — 96 percent — had been sexually abused. Half of those seen by the agency's sexual assault nurse examiner were between the ages 13 and 17.

As part of LACASA's education program, tests were given to about 6,500 county students last year to gauge their knowledge about sexual crimes.

Nearly 40 percent said they knew someone who had suffered a sexual assault, while 85 percent said they knew someone who had been sexually harassed.

"Those are high numbers, and it lets us know there's a lot of work we have to do," said Judy Shewach, executive director of the Howell Township-based support center. "We work with children to look at the issue of forced sexual contact."

Sexual assault has no typical victim, according to Shewach.

"They come from all walks of society. Sexual assault has no boundaries, as with domestic violence. What we find is people are wealthy, people are poor, people are urban and people are rural."

"The thing to do," said Morse, "is to pay close attention to your kids and look to signs of behavior changes and moodiness and unusual physical problems, and listen to what kids are telling you is happening to them."

It's difficult to measure the level of sexual assaults in the county because many go undetected. But the number of sexual assault convictions more than doubled between 2002 and 2005. This year, the prosecutor's office is averaging nearly one sexual assault conviction a week.

"Historically, we run about 40 a year, so we're inching upward here," Morse said. "I think the numbers are going up probably because the population is growing."

Shewach said that it requires both education and preventative measures to combat sexual assault.

"It's the responsibility of both genders," she said. "It's not one against the other."

---



## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### Lakeside center suspends operations

Thursday, August 24, 2006

**By Sarita Chourey**

**[schourey@kalamazoogazette.com](mailto:schourey@kalamazoogazette.com) 388-8575**

After a few turbulent years, Lakeside for Children, a Kalamazoo residential treatment facility for troubled children, will shut down indefinitely because of financial problems, officials said Wednesday.

They say, however, that they expect the closing of the century-old facility formerly known as Lakeside Treatment and Learning Center to be temporary.

"We're refocusing our mission," said Executive Director Don Nitz, citing a need to move away from traditional residential care and to consider focusing on services such as intensive outpatient care and alternative education.

Located off Oakland Drive south of Parkview Avenue, Lakeside serves child victims of abuse and neglect referred to there by courts, Kalamazoo Community Mental Health & Substance Abuse and the Kalamazoo County Department of Human Services.

Fifteen children ages 14 to 17 who are living at Lakeside will have 30 days to find new homes. Sixty full- and part-time staff members are expected to be laid off, though they will be offered voluntary retirement packages based on years of service, Nitz said.

In the upcoming weeks, Nitz and a 17-member board led by Amy Upjohn plan to form a committee that includes community members to identify a new mission and funding sources for Lakeside. "It will look very different from what we do now -- (but) it will be kid-focused," Upjohn said.

Upjohn said that while she and others on Lakeside's board are optimistic it will survive in some form, "It would be unrealistic to say we do not have fears" that the facility will have to close for good, she said.

Nitz, who has been Lakeside's director since February after spending 20 years as the superintendent of the Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home, said inadequate state funding for treating children at facilities like Lakeside is largely to blame for its financial struggles. Insurance and staffing requirements for the type of long-term care the center provides are also much more expensive than they are for other types of services for troubled children, he said.

Nitz said state agencies favor providers that can serve a client for about \$50 per day in a foster-care home. Lakeside receives state funding of \$184 per child per day, but that is on the low end for residential-treatment facilities with services as extensive as those at Lakeside, he said. The facility also receives about \$200,000 annually through fundraising.

In recent years, Lakeside has been unable to serve enough children to break even financially. It is licensed by the state to house 79 residents but has averaged 22 in recent months.

Compounding its continuing financial challenges, Lakeside was shut down in June 2004 after a state investigation of several disturbances at the center. Its license was fully restored by the state in January 2005.

Of the 15 current Lakeside residents, about half will return to their parents' homes, and the remainder are expected to be placed in other facilities, Nitz said.

Upjohn and Nitz said construction of a new Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home won't have a major effect on Lakeside's new mission, because while the juvenile home serves delinquent youths, Lakeside serves youths who have become wards of the state because of abuse or neglect.

Upjohn said Lakeside might have benefited from diversifying services 10 years ago, when other similar facilities did so.

Stephen Gorsalitz, chief judge of the Family Court Division of the Kalamazoo County Circuit Court, suggested Lakeside offer more specialized services in the future.

``I think it's been sort of generic," he said. ``It hasn't been as focused as it needs to be."

J. Richardson Johnson, chief judge of Kalamazoo County Circuit Court, said he thinks Lakeside will have to consider offering a mixture of services beyond traditional residential care.

``I'm sure there's a future (for Lakeside), but it's going to take stepping back and looking at needs and sustainability to decide where to go next," he said. ``I suspect they will not be able to continue with the traditional residential programing."

Don Vander Kooy, former chief executive officer of Family and Children Services, pointed to state funding as the key challenge facing Lakeside.

``I am impressed with the board. They've tried to really make it work," he said. ``Residential care is not the treatment of choice today."

In 2001, Lakeside underwent \$6.8 million renovations and expansions. Monthly operational costs for the seven-building facility, which sits on 50 acres, total about \$200,000, Nitz said. Nitz said one option -- though not the preferred one -- is to sell some or all of Lakeside's land and facilities and move to a smaller space.

``The city would like to add it to their tax rolls," he said. ``And developers lick their chops over it."

©2006 Kalamazoo

© 2006 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.



## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### Lakeside must redefine its role

Thursday, August 24, 2006

Two weeks ago, Kalamazoo County voters agreed to help troubled children in the community by passing a millage to build a new \$28.3 million juvenile home to replace the antiquated facility.

Today, another longtime organization that used to provide a refuge for many troubled children is suspending services and plans to close its facility to ``refocus its mission and identify sustainable sources of funding."

The loss of the Lakeside for Children facility may come as a shock to some in the community who recall the important needs it served over the years in Kalamazoo.

Lakeside opened in 1907 as an orphanage and became a haven and treatment center for abandoned, abused and neglected children from the ages of 7 to 17.

Its troubles emerged publicly in 2004 when it was shut down after several disturbances involving residents and staff.

The youngsters were out of control, hurting themselves and others, coordinating disruptions that resulted in four staff members being placed on medical leave.

The 44 youths who had been housed at the facility were moved to other sites. Within six months, the state approved Lakeside's restructuring plan and allowed the facility to reopen.

But clients never returned in sufficient numbers. In 2004, Lakeside officials said the facility needed 32 residents to balance its books. Current Executive Director Don Nitz said Wednesday that, in his six months with the facility, it averaged 22 clients a month, with the current number at 15. The peak enrollment this year was 27 in May, Nitz said.

Part of the reason for Lakeside's inability to regain a healthy client base is likely linked to the state's own financial troubles. Lakeside's clients came from state court and community mental health referrals.

As Michigan's economy has struggled and the state budget has continuously shrunk, the state has been less willing to pay \$184 a day -- or \$5,520 a month -- to place a troubled youth in a residential facility, Nitz said. Instead, courts and social workers are trying to keep children in their homes, with relatives or in foster care, which costs much less.

Nitz and the board say they will spend the next several months working with the community to identify the role a future Lakeside should play.

We believe a facility such as Lakeside is needed more than ever and we hope it will be able to find a way to continue helping troubled youths and their families in some capacity -- whether it's in the form of short-term counseling options, a chemical dependency detoxification unit or an experiential education component.

The 50 acres that Lakeside owns, bordered by the Kalamazoo Country Club's golf course and Oakland Drive, would certainly be attractive to potential developers.

But it would be strange indeed if Lakeside ended up making way for multimillion-dollar homes instead of continuing to provide a nurturing home for children in need.

©2006 Kalamazoo

© 2006 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thetimesherald.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Aug 24, 2006

Kid helping kids

Tiny entrepreneur peddling veggies to aid abuse council

By SHANNON MURPHY

Times Herald

Radio personality Chuck Santoni's first donation during last year's community Roofsit was a coffee can filled with cash from Jacob Ciccarello of Port Huron.

During this year's event, which raises money for the St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council, Santoni from WSAQ-FM 107.1 can expect to see Jacob, 4, back with more donations.

Roofsit, for which Santoni sits on the roof of the Birchwood Mall in Fort Gratiot to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect, will be Sept. 17 to 22.

Jacob, with the help of his parents, Mike and Katrina, and his sister, Breahanna, 2, sells vegetables from a small stand called the Little Hands, Helping Hands Garden in front of his Stone Street home to gather money for the fund-raiser.

The corner shop first popped up last year as a lemonade stand so Jacob could meet the community and learn about helping others, his father said.

This year, Jacob's grandparents donated a small plot of their five-acre Jeddo farm for him to grow vegetables.

The family tends the garden about every other day, bringing home fresh vegetables, such as peppers, squash and beans, to sell.

"It's a big family thing," Mike Ciccarello said. "We all go out together and pick things."

Mike Ciccarello built the small stand, which Jacob helped decorate by dipping his hands in paint and making prints on the wood.

"It's for Mr. Chuck (Santoni) because of the Roofsit and to help kids with abuse and neglect," Jacob said Wednesday while showing off the stand.

The stand, which is left out during the day on the honor system, has a donation box at its side. There is no set cost for vegetables.

In the month the stand has been open this year, Jacob has raised about \$100. Last year, he raised about \$175 for the child abuse council.

Jacob's favorite thing to sell is green peppers, "because they're big," he said, holding one.

Santoni, who will be participating in the Roofsit for his second year, said he's glad kids such as Jacob are able to help out. He keeps a picture of himself and Jacob from last year's event in his office.

"It's just touching that these kids are getting an understanding of child abuse and are there to help out," said Santoni, who also is WSAQ's program director.

Sally Straffon, executive director of the St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council, said last year's Roofsit raised about \$85,000.

She hopes to raise more this year. The council is trying to open a child-advocacy center in the county for sexually abused children.

"One of the most heartwarming parts has been the commitment by children and their families to make the world a better place for kids," Straffon said. "(Jacob) is the most darling example of this. His efforts and sincerity and his perseverance are so heartwarming."

---

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **thetimesherald.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Aug 24, 2006

Kid helping kids

Tiny entrepreneur peddling veggies to aid abuse council

By SHANNON MURPHY

Times Herald

Radio personality Chuck Santoni's first donation during last year's community Roofsit was a coffee can filled with cash from Jacob Ciccarello of Port Huron.

During this year's event, which raises money for the St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council, Santoni from WSAQ-FM 107.1 can expect to see Jacob, 4, back with more donations.

Roofsit, for which Santoni sits on the roof of the Birchwood Mall in Fort Gratiot to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect, will be Sept. 17 to 22.

Jacob, with the help of his parents, Mike and Katrina, and his sister, Breahanna, 2, sells vegetables from a small stand called the Little Hands, Helping Hands Garden in front of his Stone Street home to gather money for the fund-raiser.

The corner shop first popped up last year as a lemonade stand so Jacob could meet the community and learn about helping others, his father said.

This year, Jacob's grandparents donated a small plot of their five-acre Jeddo farm for him to grow vegetables.

The family tends the garden about every other day, bringing home fresh vegetables, such as peppers, squash and beans, to sell.

"It's a big family thing," Mike Ciccarello said. "We all go out together and pick things."

Mike Ciccarello built the small stand, which Jacob helped decorate by dipping his hands in paint and making prints on the wood.

"It's for Mr. Chuck (Santoni) because of the Roofsit and to help kids with abuse and neglect," Jacob said Wednesday while showing off the stand.

The stand, which is left out during the day on the honor system, has a donation box at its side. There is no set cost for vegetables.

In the month the stand has been open this year, Jacob has raised about \$100. Last year, he raised about \$175 for the child abuse council.

Jacob's favorite thing to sell is green peppers, "because they're big," he said, holding one.

Santoni, who will be participating in the Roofsit for his second year, said he's glad kids such as Jacob are able to help out. He keeps a picture of himself and Jacob from last year's event in his office.

"It's just touching that these kids are getting an understanding of child abuse and are there to help out," said Santoni, who also is WSAQ's program director.

Sally Straffon, executive director of the St. Clair County Child Abuse/Neglect Council, said last year's Roofsit raised about \$85,000.

She hopes to raise more this year. The council is trying to open a child-advocacy center in the county for sexually abused children.

"One of the most heartwarming parts has been the commitment by children and their families to make the world a better place for kids," Straffon said. "(Jacob) is the most darling example of this. His efforts and sincerity and his perseverance are so heartwarming."

---

## Town talks about meth

### Branch County task force alerts Quincy to dangers

[Natalie Burg](#), Staff Writer

517.437.6023

Quincy residents had a lot of questions about methamphetamine. Three-quarters of a meeting held by the Branch County Meth Task Force at the Quincy United Methodist Church last night was in question-and-answer format, and there was no shortage of questions.

#### **Advertisement**

“What does a meth lab smell like?”

“How does meth make people feel?”

“Where do meth cooks get the recipe?”

These are only a sampling of the questions posed to the six-member panel.

Kimberlyn Palchak, coordinator of the Meth Task Force and prevention program manager for STARS (Substance Treatment and Recovery Service) led the discussion. With Palchak were task force members Deputy Fred Blakenship, a special investigator to the prosecutor’s office; Debbie Zakrewski, a probation officer; Laura Copacz, registered nurse; Joan Fisher, mother of a former meth addict; and Branch County Prosecutor and task force chairman, Kirk Kashian. The task force was assembled about two years ago after a surge in meth cases in the county.

“Usually we have to write grants for these things,” said Palchak, “but they just gave us the money and said ‘do something good.’”

Today, meth cases far outweigh other hard drug cases in Branch County.

“As a community we were largely unaware — including the law enforcement — of the drug problem,” Kashian said of the state of meth awareness several years ago. “In 1999 we didn’t have any meth cases and all of a sudden it shot right up.”

The panel focused on three topics: How to identify the signs of a meth lab, the dangers of materials used in meth cooking and the effect of the drug on users.

“All of those goods you have there are normal, everyday things to have around the house,” asked one attendant, “how do you know when someone’s using them to cook meth?”

The question came in reference to an assembly of materials used in a meth lab. They included acetone alcohol, anhydrous ammonia, batteries, Red Devil lye, plastic soda bottles and Sudafed. Blakenship explained that while these were common items to have in rural homes, there were definite signs of meth use.

“You can tell who’s making it and who’s not,” he said. Plastic bottles with tubing at the end, disassembled batteries and tin foil with burn marks were some of the signs Blakenship suggested. Also, the quantity of materials are a tip as well. The sale of cold medicines containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, such as Sudafed, are now restricted at pharmacies to only those over 18 and in limited amounts.

Blakenship told how one hardware store clerk noticed a group of young people repeatedly buying Red Devil Lye. When the clerk asked them what they were doing with it, they gave him a suspicious reply. After writing down the customer’s license plate number, he called the Meth Task Force and the car led police to an active meth lab.

In addition to retail clerks, landlords, utility service people and others who regularly interact with resident’s homes in the community are encouraged to look out for such signs and report suspicious activities.

“How is a meth house decontaminated?”

Palchak estimated that it usually takes about \$25,000 to decontaminate a home where meth was cooked or used, but

depending on the damage, repairs could cost more than \$100,000. Blankenship recalled one landlord's attempt to repair the single-wide trailer he had rented to meth users.

"This case was not as bad as most," he said, "but he still had to rip the carpet out, clean everything with soap, water and bleach." In other instances, everything from floorboards to wall panels must be removed to decontaminate a meth house. Even when meth is not cooked, but only used in a residence, costly contaminations occur.

"What does meth do to someone?"

"Meth has just got a hold on people," said Palchak. The ultra-addictive drug can hook people after just one or two uses. She explained that people feel great on meth. "They are very energetic and can stay up for days and get a lot of things done." This is why, she added, young mothers have been so attracted to the drug.

Unfortunately, the negative effects of the drug are powerful. Pictures displayed at the meeting showed users with open sores all over their bodies, drawn faces and emaciated bodies after only a few months on the drug.

"I had a patient who was awared for 18 days," said Palchak. "He didn't eat, didn't sleep, didn't urinate. After 18 days he crashed."

"Crashing" meant that the addict collapsed on a mattress where he remained for a week, urinating and defecating, but not moving. "Then he woke up and did it all over again," she said.

The withdrawal process is a lengthy and painful experience. Palchak explained that unlike other common drugs, which are plant-based, meth is just a combination of chemicals that the body does not know how get rid of. The result is months of withdrawal and hallucinations.

"We have people asking to stay in jail," she said, explaining how badly addicts want to stay away from the drug once clean, "We've never had an alcoholic ask to stay in jail."

Caryl Pridgeon and Verla Cook, both Quincy residents, attended last night partly out of curiosity and partly because of the growing problem.

“You read about it in the paper,” said Pridgeon, “and I have grandkids.” Both women said that they recognized meth was around but they didn’t know any users. “But who knows,” Pridgeon added, “they don’t really tell you, I guess.”

For more information on methamphetamines and what can be done in your community, here are a few places to start.

Information can always be provided anonymously Michigan State Police–Jonesville Post: (517) 849–9922 Hillsdale County Sheriff’s Department: (517) 437–7317 Department of Human Services, Hillsdale County: Children’s Protective Services daytime — (517) 439–2200, after hours (517) 523–9911; Adult Protective Services daytime — (517) 439–2200, after hours (517) 523–9911 Detective Sgt. Frank Washington, Office of Monroe Narcotics Investigation: (517) 336–6481 On the Web: Information on the effects of methamphetamine —

<http://www.erowid.org/chemicals/meth/meth.shtml> At the state level — [www.michigan.gov/meth](http://www.michigan.gov/meth)

Click here to return to story:

[http://www.hillsdale.net/stories/082306/news\\_20060823024.shtml](http://www.hillsdale.net/stories/082306/news_20060823024.shtml)

By PATTY RA

## Stamas, Gillard honored for helping families

Two state legislators were honored Wednesday for their contributions to prevention investment programs designed to help children and families of Northeast Michigan and across the state.

Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, and Rep. Matt Gillard, D-Alpena, were presented with the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan Crime Fighter Award by law enforcement officials at the Michigan Works Service Center in Alpena.

"It's a tremendous honor for me. I'm happy to work with these people to make a difference in kids and people's lives in the community," Gillard said. "I'm a firm believer of supporting early childhood programs."

The presentation followed a community conversation co-hosted by Fight Crimes: Invest in Kids and Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency. During the event, individuals involved with child and youth development, local elected officials and law enforcement officials discussed how prevention investments in the state budget help children and their families to succeed and the challenges they're currently facing.

"The more we spend on at-risk children the less money we have to spend on them as adults," said Dennis Grenkowsz, Alpena County prosecutor. "Dysfunctional behavior is a learned behavior. Children imitate what they see. That's why it's very important to have early intervention."

Stamas and Gillard have been protecting the funding sources at the state level, so the local groups can continue to receive funding. For the past three years Stamas has put funding in the state community health budget for these programs, said K.P. Pelleran, Fight Crime Invest in Kids, state director.

"They have taken a leadership role in promoting these programs," she said. "They increased an increase in funds in child abuse and neglect prevention knowing that these proven programs prevent abuse and neglect and save children from unbelievable trauma."

Stamas said funding for many of these programs are appropriated from the Michigan Department of Community Health, Department of Human Services and state school aid budget.

"So much of what we do is react. Much of these dollars are pro-active and that's important," he said. "You can look at these things from Lansing but what works best is getting the dollars to the local groups."

Patty Ramus can be reached via e-mail at [pramus@thealpenanews.com](mailto:pramus@thealpenanews.com) or by phone at 354-3111 ext. 345.

# Bangkok Post

[www.bangkokpost.com](http://www.bangkokpost.com)

## CHILD PROTECTION / CONFIDENCE-BUILDING COURSE

### Teachers learn how to handle child sex abuse

#### ANJIRA ASSAVANONDA

Most teachers lack confidence in dealing with child sex abuse. A child protection foundation wants to change that. This week, 60 teachers from around the country have been learning how to protect students from sexual abuse.

The two-day course was part of the Child Protection School project directed by the Centre for the Protection of Children's Rights Foundation.

Teachers were told about their duty under the Child Protection Law, how to identify victims of abuse, and what to do when they find them.

"Most teachers lack confidence in dealing with such cases. This results from fear that the action they take will place them in trouble," said Chakkrid Chansang, a CPR lawyer who directed the class.

He told teachers to report suspected cases of child abuse to the school head and work with other agencies, such as police, doctors, social workers and psychologists.

Under the Child Protection Law, teachers who suspect children have been abused or mistreated must report the incident.

Mr Chakkrid said certain kinds of behaviour could alert a teacher to the fact that a child is in trouble.

"For example, if a girl said she didn't want to go home or she was unhappy at home, it means there could be something wrong," he said.

The classroom also told teachers how to collect evidence, and help student victims fit back into school life.

Suree Pummalee, a school teacher from Lop Buri, said the programme showed teachers how to handle a sensitive and delicate issue.

"Child abuse has occurred a few times at my school, and I found it hard to handle. Sometimes parents did not cooperate and that made our work more difficult."

Thongpairum Puitrakul, chief of the foundation's child and social development division, said 32 schools had taken part in the project since it started three years ago.

Teachers are told to come up with plans to make their schools safe and healthy

places.

The two-day programme also covered environmental safety management, child behavioral problems, self-discipline and social responsibility, and sex education.

---

© Copyright The Post Publishing Public Co., Ltd. 2006

Privacy Policy

Comments to: Webmaster

Advertising enquiries to: Internet Marketing

Printed display ad enquiries to: Display Ads

Full contact details: Contact us

## 4-year custody battle is resolved, for now

**BY JACK KRESNAK**

FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

*August 24, 2006*

An expensive, legally complex, 4-year custody battle over two small girls that was waged in four counties and involved 10 state judges and a federal court judge finally has been resolved by the Michigan Court of Appeals.

In an opinion released Wednesday, the court sided with Jonathan and Donna Cromwell of Farmington Hills, who have had physical custody of the girls since April 2003.

But foster-adoptive parents Chad and Tamera Smith of DeWitt could appeal the decision to the Michigan Supreme Court. They could not be reached for comment.

"The Smiths received a fair hearing," the appeals court concluded, saying the children should stay with the Cromwells. Donna Cromwell is a cousin to the girls' maternal grandmother.

"The opinion certainly speaks for itself, and we are very, very pleased," Cromwell said.

Court records give this account of what happened:

In April 2002, Lutheran Social Services of Michigan placed the older girl in foster care with the Smiths after a bizarre suicide pact between her parents left her father dead and her mother in jail. When her mother gave birth to the younger girl, social workers placed her in the Smith home also.

When the Cromwells tried to obtain custody of the children, the state Department of Human Services -- then called the Family Independence Agency -- refused because it did not want to disrupt the children's care.

In September 2002, the mother's parental rights were terminated in Ingham County Family Court, and the Smiths filed to adopt the girls. That adoption was approved in December 2002 by the superintendent of the DHS's Michigan Children's Institute, the legal authority for children whose parents' rights have been terminated.

The Cromwells appealed the decision to Oakland County Family Court Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti.

Nannette Bowler, who had just been named the new DHS director, disagreed with the decision granting the Smiths the right to adopt the girls and did not contest the appeal. Bowler later was replaced by Marianne Udow.

Pezzetti refused to allow the Smiths or their attorneys to participate in the hearing, barred the Michigan Children's Institute and Lutheran Social Services Michigan from further involvement in the case and ordered the children removed from the Smiths' home to be put in the custody of the Cromwells.

The Cromwells have had physical custody of the girls since April 2003, but no adoption has taken place while the Smiths appealed to the Michigan Supreme Court -- which refused to hear the appeal -- and then took the case to federal court in Detroit.

After several hearings, U.S. District Court Judge Paul Borman ruled in April 2005 that Pezzetti violated the Smiths' due-process rights. Although he legally could not order a change of custody, Borman ordered state courts to reconsider the case in a way consistent with his ruling.

The chief judges in Clinton and Oakland counties decided to ask the State Court Administrative Office to find a previously uninvolved judge from a different circuit to handle the case. Genesee County Family Court Judge Allen Nelson was chosen.

After a hearing over several days in November, Nelson ruled in favor of the Cromwells.

The Smiths appealed to the state Court of Appeals, where Judges Kirsten Frank Kelly, Jane Markey and Patrick Meter ruled unanimously in the Cromwells' favor.

Contact **JACK KRESNAK** at 313-223-4544 or [jkresnak@freepress.com](mailto:jkresnak@freepress.com).

**Copyright © 2006 Detroit Free Press Inc.**

Published August 24, 2006

## **Pair from DeWitt lose appeal in adoption court case**

Ruling: Holey children to remain with relatives

Associated Press

The Michigan Court of Appeals has denied a Clinton County couple's effort to win custody of two young daughters of a couple who participated in a suicide pact.

The court released an opinion Wednesday upholding a lower judge's decision that the girls should be adopted by Donna and Jonathan Cromwell, distant relatives from Farmington Hills.

Chadd and Tamera Smith of DeWitt were foster parents of the girls after their father died and their mother went to prison.

The Smiths lost custody of Liliandra Holey, now 5, and Pearl Holey, now 4, after an Oakland County judge ruled their finalized adoption was improper.

But the Smiths won a court ruling in April 2005 when a federal judge said the court order removing the girls from them violated the couple's constitutional rights.

In November 2005, however, a Genesee County circuit judge decided it was in the best interests of the children to keep them with the Cromwells.

The girls are the children of Patrick and Jennifer Holey.

Prosecutors have said Patrick and Jennifer Holey formed a suicide pact in April 2002 after police asked to interview them about the rape of a 14-year-old girl and state child protection workers took Liliandra, who was 8 months old at the time.

Patrick Holey died of a drug overdose. Jennifer Holey survived, but she was convicted of third-degree sexual assault and had her parental rights terminated.

Pearl was born while Jennifer Holey was in prison.



## Free clinic gets reprieve

Borgess gives space for three more months

Thursday, August 24, 2006

By Josh Jarman

[jjarman@citpat.com](mailto:jjarman@citpat.com) -- 768-4945

Patients and volunteers at St. Luke's Clinic can sleep a little easier now that they will be getting three more months of free rent.

"We can breathe again," said Phyllis Kusisto, the clinic's coordinator.

The clinic, which relies on donations, pays \$50 a month for phones and electricity. It received notice in late July that the building's owner, Borgess Hospital of Kalamazoo, was going to require the clinic to pay \$1,500 in monthly rent starting in September.

Since then, the clinic learned the rent increase will wait until Dec. 1.

The nonprofit medical clinic opened in 2003 and offers medical services to those with little or no insurance.

It is located in the old Doctors Hospital complex at 124 N. Elm St.

Michael Alfred, executive director of business development and community outreach for Borgess, said the hospital system should not have to bear the full responsibility of St. Luke's rent.

"We'd like very much to work with the clinic," Alfred said. "We know the important work they do for the people in Jackson, but it needs to have broader support from the community -- not just Borgess."

Alfred said Borgess is negotiating with the clinic about the cost of a nearby building, also owned by the hospital, that the clinic wants to buy or lease. The price was lowered from \$325,000 to \$250,000, and Alfred said there is still room for negotiation.

Kusisto said that while the three-month reprieve is wonderful, the clinic still needs community help to get into a building of its own.

"We are working with four local organizations, and there are statewide foundations that will provide one-time funds for a building," Kusisto said. "But we need to get the local people to pony up."

While the clinic receives grants and private donations, it uses all of its funding to cover medications and provide care. Covering rent would require the clinic to cut back the services it offers, or it could close permanently.

Kusisto said the clinic asks its patients to give what they can, but most do not have enough income to keep up with the cost of their care.

"I had one gentlemen, who didn't have any money for a donation, give us two winning lottery tickets,"

Kusisto said. "They were \$2 scratch-off winners, and you don't want to take them, but you have to."

Suzanne Cross, a 62-year-old Blackman Township resident, came to the clinic three years ago with chronic back pain. She said no other local physicians would see her without insurance.

"I don't know what I would have done for those three years if it wasn't for them," Cross said. "And I know there are hundreds of other people in Jackson that badly need them."

Cross now is covered by Medicaid, something the clinic made possible through its insurance application service.

As a Christian organization, Kusisto said the clinic would like to get more support from local churches.

"If we could get each church in Jackson to donate \$25 a week, that would be our sustainability," Kusisto said. "It used to be that if you needed some medical attention and you did not have insurance, your church helped you out. If they help us, we can serve their parishioners without insurance."

Kusisto said that without more support, the cost of rent would be hard for the clinic to overcome for any length of time.

"We don't want to go month to month worrying about our existence," she said.

©2006 Jackson Citizen Patriot

© 2006 Michigan Live. All Rights Reserved.

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **battlecreekenquirer.com**  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Aug 24, 2006

Nursing Clinic of B.C. may be dropped

**Elizabeth Huff**

*The Enquirer*

The health officer of the Calhoun County Department of Public Health wants to drop the Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek from its roster of services because she believes it has been using federal dollars unethically.

Dottie-Kay Bowersox, health officer since September, this week agreed to give the clinic until at least March 31 to find a way to operate independently of the health department.

In an effort to make up for \$1.65 million in projected lost revenue — \$550,000 of which is funding for the nursing clinic — six full-time positions at the clinic would be cut if the county board ultimately approves of the proposal. The health department's overall annual budget would be reduced from \$5.65 million to \$4 million as of Oct. 1, partly due to the expiration and nonrenewal of grants.

The nursing clinic has claimed to be a federally qualified health center and has taken federal tax dollars from at least 1995 to 2006.

At no point during that time did the clinic offer all of the services necessary to claim federally-qualified status and get that money, Bowersox said.

The six people who are slated to lose their jobs will be laid off or bumped to other positions within the health department.

The nursing clinic provides health care to the homeless and uninsured. In 2005, staff served 1,560 patients.

In 2005, the clinic was awarded \$417,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It covered most of the clinic's \$700,000 annual expenses.

The clinic is required to provide primary health care to children, dental care, mental health and substance abuse services in order to be eligible for federal funding, according to HHS.

The nursing clinic does not provide any of these services, Bowersox said.

Past health officers have been forgiving of the clinic's shortcomings, but Bowersox said she does not run a public agency that way.

"I don't take money without doing what I say I'm going to do," she said. "It's unethical to take a pocket of money from a funder and have very specific mandates and requirements placed upon you and then take the money and not follow through with what you've promised to commit by taking those funds. You just don't do it. I think it's unethical, I think to some degree it's illegal."

She has heard resentment from Board of Health members and the community for "cleaning house."

Yet as a taxpayer, she said she feels it is more important to give the community what it pays for in public health care.

"How unfair to this community to give a partial service. Instead of being mad at me about bringing this out into the open, maybe they should be mad at my predecessors for not doing their job."

However, some disagree with Bowersox's philosophy.

"From Dottie-Kay's point of view, yes, you are in a deficit. My point of view is that, no, we are not in a deficit," said John Harper, member and 2005's chairman of the nursing clinic advisory council.

The government continued to give money to the clinic from 1995 to 2006 even though federal audits reveal that the clinic was not up to speed, Harper said.

The funding amounts increased steadily each year and there was no indication the money would stop coming.

Yet for the past three years, before Bowersox was hired, the nursing advisory council has questioned whether the clinic was moving away from its original goal of providing acute care and hygiene for the homeless. It began in 1989 as a free clinic funded by private donations.

"Originally it started very bare bones — washing the feet of the homeless," said Wendy Tackett, an independent program evaluator hired to analyze the nursing clinic's operations.

Volunteer doctors and staff offered free treatment to homeless and uninsured patients who needed immediate treatment.

Those who required long-term care were directed to available resources for help, like the Family Health Center of Battle Creek.

In the mid-1990s, the clinic took federally qualified health-center status and became subject to federal regulations. The advisory board felt the clinic was less flexible to serve the specific needs of the homeless because of the restrictions, Harper said.

"The council had a retreat and decided that the free clinic model is a lot closer to the nursing clinic reaching its original purpose," he said.

It could become a free clinic supported solely by donations, such as the Fountain Clinic of Marshall. Or it could merge its resources with Family Health Center, a true federally qualified health center, Tackett said in her independent analysis of the clinic.

"We're not talking about losing service in the community," Bowersox said. "We're talking about a transfer ... It's not as if we're just shutting the doors on Tuesday and nothing else is ever going to be provided through that service."

"I know this is personal for a lot of people," she said. "I'm pulling on heart strings. I'm pulling on pocketbooks. It's a really difficult decision, but at the same time I think I'm the only one who's mentioned it. Good, bad or indifferent, I think it's time."

*Elizabeth Huff is health and features reporter. She can be reached at 966-0684 or [ehuff@battlecr.gannett.com](mailto:ehuff@battlecr.gannett.com).*

---

Times Herald Article published Aug 24, 2006

## **Health officials right to help the uninsured**

Project could provide treatment

The St. Clair County Health Department is embarking upon a critical mission: helping the needy obtain health care.

Health officials hope to establish a program to meet the needs of about 1,500 uninsured adult county residents. To meet that goal, local and state funding is necessary.

After a meeting last week with representatives of local service organizations, Health Department Director Jon Parsons said \$1 million in seed money would be needed by 2007 to qualify for a matching state grant.

If the money is acquired, the health-care project would be managed by the county. Parsons hopes a medical facility could be designated to treat program members.

There should be no question about the importance of this effort. Of the many effects of the high unemployment that plagues the county, disturbing numbers of adults find basic health care is out of reach.

In turn, the community pays the price. Unable to afford regular visits to the doctor, uninsured residents end up at hospital emergency rooms. While hospitals must treat anyone who seeks care, the cost is substantial, and it contributes to the rising price of health care.

Between 17,000 and 18,000 county residents don't have health insurance. Adults comprise about 6,000 of that number.

Health-care costs are taking a toll throughout the nation. They undermine industries' ability to compete against their foreign competitors. They force many of our senior citizens on fixed incomes to choose between buying medication or food. They also leave millions of Americans without health insurance.

The county project won't solve the health-care crisis - locally or nationally. It could help the county meet the needs of some key victims.

Michigan Report

August 23, 2006

**COX CHARGES FAMILY WITH MEDICAID FRAUD**

Attorney General Mike Cox filed Medicaid fraud charges against Donna Titze of Clarkston and her brother Darryl Goebel for claiming respite services that were not provided.

The charges allege the two filed claims for reimbursement for time Ms. Titze cared for Mr. Goebel's special needs child during a two-week trip to Portland, Oregon. Investigators said no respite services were actually provided on the trip.

The charges carry penalties of up to four years in jail and \$50,000 in fines.

8/23/2006 11:00:00 AM

## **Colon schools to open a child care program this year**

By Maribeth Holtz  
Sturgis Journal Staff writer

COLON - Colon Community Schools is starting up a child care program for the 2006-07 school year.

The board of education Monday unanimously approved the start of the program for up to 20 children ages 3-6 to be held at Colon Elementary School.

The idea for the program came from many parents having concerns that there is not enough child care in the area, said Lloyd Kirby, district superintendent.

"It's just exciting to be able to offer something like this to help working parents," he said.

Since the elementary school had an open classroom in the early childhood area, everything came together for the district to start up the program, he said.

Heading the program will be Suzanne Wilson, a former preschool teacher. There will be two other adult assistants.

The program will last five days a week from about 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$100 a week per child for five full days, or \$50 a week for five half days.

Children who are in district programs such as Michigan School Readiness or kindergarten will have transportation provided.

The program will also offer two meals for full-day attendees and one meal for half-day attendees.

Kirby said the program is self-supporting.

Other than the district providing space and materials for it, there are no other costs to the district.

For details, call Colon Elementary School at

432-2121.

## Oceana's Herald-Journal

Posted: 8-24-2006

### **Debit cards to replace child support checks**

Child support recipients will no longer receive checks under a new program being implemented by the state.

Recipients should start receiving debit cards instead of checks. The new program is being implemented with the Department of Human Services Office of Child Support in coordination with 17 mid-Michigan Friends of the Court.



"I think that given the state of the economy, it will be a lot cheaper," said Oceana County Friend of the Court Pat Murphy.

The cards will replace paper checks that can be sent to the wrong address or stolen from mailboxes, Murphy said. They will be similar to other bank debit cards and child support payments will be deposited into the client's accounts. Recipients will be subject to Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) fees.

Recipients can chose direct deposit into checking/saving accounts instead of the debit cards, Murphy said. The VISA debit cards will be issued to recipients at no cost.

More information on electronic disbursement of child support is available at the Department of Human Services child support section Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs) or [www.misdu.com](http://www.misdu.com).

### **Voice Your Opinion**

---

Date published: 8-24-2006

**Copyright © 2006 Oceana's Herald-Journal**



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published August 24, 2006

## Center to help 1,800 kids this year

By Hannah Northey  
Lansing State Journal

Debra Paddock tries to buy her daughters a new outfit and pair of shoes for school each year.

"I can usually scrape up enough for that," the Lansing mother said Wednesday. "But this year, it's been very tight."

So Paddock, who's had her hours cut at her fast-food job, turned to the Love Clothing Center for help. She got free shoes, jeans, blouses, pajamas and socks for her daughters, Cynthia, 10, and Kaleen, 9.

In fact, hundreds of students will get new pants, shirts, socks and underwear, used coats and shoes this year from the center in Judson Memorial Baptist Church.

The Love center has given almost \$1 million in clothing to families over the past 17 years.

Organizers say demand is increasing:

The center will serve 1,822 children this year, up by 75 from 2005.

"With so many more layoffs, cutbacks and low-income jobs ... it's just really hard," said Ann Cook, co-director of the clothing center.



(Photo by ROD SANFORD/Lansing State Journal)  
School clothes: Kaleen Paddock, 9, tries on a new top Wednesday at Love Clothing Center at Lansing's Judson Memorial Baptist Church.

### How to help

- Call 882-5961 to find out how to new and gently used clothing.
- Monetary donations can be mailed to: Judson Memorial Baptist Church, 530 Vernon Ave. Lansing, MI, 48910. Make checks payable to JMBC-LCC.

### Related news from the Web

Latest headlines by topic:

- [Life](#)
- [Fast Food](#)
- [Family](#)
- [Kids](#)
- [Food](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)

Paddock said she was happy with what her kids got.

"Everything was in excellent condition," she said. "It's really going to help a lot."

Wendy Buxton, a Lansing mother of three, was in the clothing center Wednesday with her youngest child, 3-year-old Bellvedere.

She picked up shoes, a pair of boots, coats and an assortment of outfits for him and 10-year-old Bobby and 7-year-old Champayne.

"They have really nice people to help you here, and a lot of nice clothes," she said. "You name it, they have it."

Buxton said she was laid-off from a nursing home job about a month-and-a-half ago. She's familiar with the Love center through a friend who goes to Judson. It's a big help for her family, she said.

"Now they have something to start the year with," she said.

To be eligible, families are initially screened by Christian Services, a network of 200 churches. Families living at or under poverty level then receive an appointment to visit the clothing center.

Established in 1989 in the basement of the Judson Memorial Baptist, the center consists of 19 racks of clothing for boys and girls, up to age 18, and a quiet waiting room.

Cook said the community asked for the center - and keeps it going.

It began when a group of concerned teachers in Lansing and East Lansing said children were showing up to school with inadequate clothing; the church was quick to act.

Cook said church members tore out the carpeting and installed a tiled floor, which was ideal for rolling racks on.

Members of the congregation also painted the walls and added more light with larger windows.

The center is now supported by donations from individuals and businesses, grants and member churches. Judson Memorial Baptist Church donates space, utilities and mailing costs, and all workers are volunteers.

In April, the center received a \$1,000 Youth Fund Grant from the Capital Region Community Foundation.

Cook said the center, although well stocked, is in need of winter coats for both girls and boys.

"They should be clean, the zippers should work, and no surprises in the pockets," Cook said with a laugh.

Contact Hannah Northey at 377-1112 or [hnorthey@lsj.com](mailto:hnorthey@lsj.com).

[\[Back\]](#)



This is a printer friendly version of an article from **Lansing State Journal**. To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

Published August 24, 2006

## Anti-union ads target state workers

### On the Web

- Michigan Union Facts: [www.michiganunionfacts.com](http://www.michiganunionfacts.com)

Campaign blaming unions for high wages outrages members

By Chris Andrews  
Lansing State Journal

A Washington-based group is waging an aggressive advertising campaign suggesting that government and public school workers are overpaid and that unions are to blame.

The Center for Union Facts has been advertising in newspapers and on television in cities in Michigan, Oregon, Nevada and Montana.

Full-page ads ran in the Lansing State Journal on Sunday, as well as in today's newspaper.

The ad features a menacing-looking woman glaring with a "Michigan Government Office" sign behind her. " 'Service' Like This Doesn't Come Cheap," the ad's headline asserts.

"Our members are outraged," said Alan Kilar, spokesman for UAW Local 6000, which represents state government workers. "This is just an attempt to union-bust."

Rick Berman, executive director of the Center for Union Facts, said the organization was created about seven months ago to inform the public about union issues. He said that includes salaries, unions' political influence, embezzlement of union dues and efforts by union leaders to avoid secret-ballot elections.

"Once people have that kind of information, they might have a different perception about how politicians are allocating taxpayer money," he said.

Berman said the four states selected all give voters the right to initiate laws by petition, although he said the group isn't advocating any particular effort. The four states all have ballot issues pending to limit state spending.

He said the ads are designed to be provocative or funny and to get people to stop and pay attention and check out the group's Web site, [www.michiganunionfacts.com](http://www.michiganunionfacts.com).

Kilar said the organization's Web site fails to note that government workers are taxpayers as well, or

that state workers granted concessions to help the state balance the budget.

"They bailed out the state three years ago," he said.

Michigan Education Association spokeswoman Margaret Trimer-Hartley said it's a sad day when workers are criticized for banding together.

"They're saying it's greedy and wrong for working men and women to organize and try to fight for their piece of the pie," she said.

Liz Boyd, a spokeswoman for Gov. Jennifer Granholm, said: "The advertisement is disrespectful to both state employees and to their unions. It is another example of groups coming from outside of Michigan trying to influence public opinion."

Contact Chris Andrews at 377-1054 or [candrews@lsj.com](mailto:candrews@lsj.com).

---

Copyright 2006 Lansing State Journal Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service (updated 12.20.02)

[\[Back\]](#)